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State Employees Collect Books for Farm Worker Children

(SACRAMENTO) Children in 23 locations in 14 different counties who reside in California Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) Office of Migrant Services migrant farm worker housing centers will soon receive books collected during the fifth annual Cesar E. Chavez Children's Book Drive. The book drive is a State employee program, co-sponsored by HCD, the California Highway Patrol (CHP), the Department of Financial Institutions (DFI), and the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

The campaign is set to begin on Cesar E. Chavez's Birthday, March 31, and end on Cinco de Mayo, May 5, 2005.

Lucetta Dunn, HCD Director, noted, "We know that education and adequate housing build stronger families and create enlightened communities. Learning to read is an important part of every child's growth and development. The books will both entertain and inspire the dreams of the young people to make choices about their future education and jobs".

Books will be collected through the California Highway Patrol's 100 Area Offices. "Cesar Chavez was a great believer in children and education. He advocated tirelessly on behalf of reading programs for children of farm workers," said CHP Commissioner Mike L. Brown.

"Education was the passion of Cesar Chavez. The walls of his office were lined with hundreds of books," said Commissioner Howard Gould, Department of Financial Institutions.